

U.S. Appln. No. 09/891,061
Reply to Office Action dated February 22, 2006

PATENT
450100-03259

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 10, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

The Abstract, which was objected to due to informalities, has been amended, thereby obviating the objections.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,728,470 to Ito, et al.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein during a normal playback, each group of the first memory means reproduces the image groups, and

wherein during a high-speed playback, the groups of the first memory means reproduce the image groups successively.” (emphasis added)

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As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,728,470 to Ito, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Ito") relates to a data recording and reproducing method.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Ito that would teach or disclose the above-identified features of independent claim 1.

Specifically, Applicants submit that Ito does not teach or suggest the high-speed playback feature recited in claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable. For reasons similar to those above, claims 6 and 10 are also patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

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